

Peterson Party
Discoverer of Dry Creek and Sulphur Springs (Snow Springs)

Having heard favorable reports in regard to the land around American Fork Creek, a party composed of Canute Peterson, David Savage, Charles Hopkins, Henry Royle, William S. Empey, William Wadsworth and Surveyor Lemmon set out on an exploring expedition to Utah Valley in July 1950. They proceeded immediately to this little stream but were surprised to find on their arrival that it was already pre-empted by Washburn Chipman, Arza Adams and others who laid claim to all the land and water in the vicinity.

A disagreement arising between the two parties the next morning. Peterson and his followers immediately left and stopped at another stream about three miles west, which on account of the difficulty with which they found sufficient water for their horses, they named Dry Creek, an appellation much more truthful than poetic.

After camping approximately on the site of the present Wines Park, they spent the remainder of the day in exploring the surrounding country, going as far south as Utah Lake and as far west as the Jordan River.

They found the valley to be covered with sagebrush, intermingled here and there with a sprinkling of greasewood and bunchgrass and colored occasionally with a patch of

sunflowers or Indian Paint Brushes. A strip of meadow grass, cane brakes, rushes and flags formed an emerald border around the lake.

A spring was also discovered about three-fourths of a mile north of the lake, and one mile east of the river, which was christened Sulphur Spring on account of the peculiar taste of the water. This spring later became the center around which the first settler located.

In 1853, it came into the possession of William Snow and was henceforth known as Snow Springs.

After their investigation of the country, the party being favorably impressed with the land and its possibilities, surveyed and located an extensive tract and determined to return and settle permanently.

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